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ACTION INR-00

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	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00	NEA-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00
	PER-00	PM-00	PRS-00	SP-00	IRM-00	TEST-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/004W		
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P 251807Z JUN 02
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0781
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC// PRIORITY
DIA WASHINGTON DC//DIO-MESAT/J2M-2A/RAM-1/DHO-6//
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOA/DOAS//
CDRNGIC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//IANG-RAM//
DIA WASHINGTON DC//DIO-MESAT/J2M-2A/RAM-1/DHO-06//
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USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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SECSTATE FOR NEA/PD, NEA/P, NEA/ENA,
NSC FOR MALLEY
LONDON FOR HKANONA AND POL - GOLDRICH
PARIS FOR POL - OFRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS:OPRC, MO, KMDR
SUBJECT: MOROCCO DAILY PRESS SUMMARY AND MEDIA REACTIONS:
JUNE 25, 2002

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"MUSLIM SCHOLARS HAVE REJECTED THE CALL BY ABU GHAITH (AL-
QAEDA SPOKESMAN) TO KILL JEWS EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD. THERE

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IS NO WAR BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND EVERY JEW IN THE WORLD. THE WAR IS BETWEEN US AS MUSLIMS, AND JEWS LIVING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHO HAVE COME FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD AND SETTLED IN PALESTINE".

"ATTAJDID" ON THE LATEST AL-QAEDA TAPE

PLACEMENT/ACTIONS

- "RTM" (GOVERNMENT-OWNED TV, VIEWERS ABOUT 21 MILLION) BROADCAST, IN ARABIC LANGUAGE PRIME TIME NEWS THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE TDA GRANT AT ONCF FOR A TELECOMMUNICATION PROJECTS, IN THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR TUTWILER AND MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ABDELLAH ZNINED.

EDITORIALS COMMENTARIES

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REACTION TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECH ON THE ME

- OFFICIAL MOROCCAN BROADCAST MEDIA OF 6/24-25('RTM' RADIO AND TV, AND '2M' TV) FACTUALLY REPORTED ON THE SPEECH WITH NO COMMENTARY.

- SEMI-INDEPENDENT RADIO STATION "MEDI-1" BROADCAST (6/25) A FACTUAL REPORT FOLLOWED BY AN ANALYSIS BY ITS COMMENTATOR WHO NOTED: "PRESIDENT BUSH ONCE AGAIN SHOWED HIS BIAS FOR ISRAEL. THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY HIS REMARKS WERE QUICKLY WELCOMED BY PM SHARON. IN FACT, AN ISRAELI PAPER HAS NOTED THAT BUSH SEEMS TO HAVE ADOPTED THE POSITION OF THE HARD-LINE LIKUD PARTY AND THAT OF SHARON."

- WIDELY WATCHED SATELLITE TV STATION "AL-JAZEERA" CARRIED THE SPEECH LIVE (AS DID MOST OF THE SATELLITE ARAB STATIONS SUCH AS 'ANN' AND 'AL-MANAR') AND HIGHLIGHTED ARAFAT'S WELCOMING AND HAMAS REJECTING THE SPEECH. "AL-JAZEERA" INTERVIEWED THE EDITOR IN CHIEF OF EGYPTIAN "AL-USBU" WHO DESCRIBED THE SPEECH AS A "WAR ON ARABS" AND DENOUNCED ARAFAT FOR WELCOMING IT.

- "LE MATIN" (SEMI-OFFICIAL, FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY, CIRC. 50,000): A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN PALESTINE AT THE BEGINNING OF 2003: BUSH DEMANDS THAT ISRAEL STOP ITS OCCUPATION OF THE TERRITORIES" ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE PHOTO OF THE PRESIDENT DELIVERING THE SPEECH. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT "BUSH HAS TASKED COLIN POWELL TO WORK WITH THE DIFFERENT PARTIES TO ESTABLISH PEACE IN THE REGION. IN THE SAME CONTEXT, PRESIDENT ARAFAT SIGNED

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A LAW TO HOLD FREE ELECTIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR,
ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT BY SAEB ERAKAT ON CNN ON MONDAY."
THE ARTICLE ENDED ON A POSITIVE NOTE "IT SHOULD BE NOTED
THAT THE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP HAS WELCOMED THE IDEAS OF
THE U.S. PRESIDENT."

WAR AGAINST TERRORISM

- "AUJOURD'HUI LE MAROC" (FRENCH-LANGUAGE, INDEPENDENT
DAILY, CIRC. 30,000): "MOUSSAOUI AND THE U.S.":

"WHILE HIS MOTHER PLEADS HIS INNOCENCE, ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI
HAS BECOME HIS OWN SELF LAWYER AND HAS MADE OUT OF HIS LEGAL
PROCEEDINGS A CRUSADE AGAINST THE U.S... HIS MOTHER AICHA EL
WAFI WAS INTERVIEWED BY 'CNN' LAST WEEK. SHE SAID THAT HER
SON WAS NOT A KILLER AS HE CONFIRMED TO HIS MOTHER THAT HE
DID NOT DO ANYTHING. HE IS SUSPECTED OF BEING THE 20TH
HIJACKER OF SEPTEMBER 11, MOUSSAOUI WROTE PETITIONS TO THE
JUDGE THAT WERE MADE PUBLIC LAST WEEK SAYING THAT THE JUDGE
IS CYNICAL TOWARDS MUSLIMS AND ASKED THAT THE JUDGE BE
CHANGED."

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0782
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC// PRIORITY
DIA WASHINGTON DC//DIO-MESAT/J2M-2A/RAM-1/DHO-6//
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JUNE 25, 2002

REACTION TO AL QAEDA TAPE

- "NO TO AGGRESSION AGAINST JEWS AND CHRISTIANS", FRONT PAGE
COMMENTARY SIGNED BY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MOHAMED YATIM IN
"ATTAJDID" (ISLAMIC ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY, CIRC. 35,000) OF
JUNE 25:

"THE OBJECTIVE OF AL QAEDA TAPE MIGHT BE TO PRACTICE MORE
PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR AGAINST AMERICANS AND CONFIRM THAT THE AL
QAEDA NETWORK IS STILL IN GOOD SHAPE AND CAPABLE OF STRIKING
EVERYWHERE; BUT WHAT IS TRUE IS THAT THOSE BEHIND THE TAPE
HAVE BADLY DAMAGED THE IMAGE OF ISLAM AND MUSLIMS AND HAVE
OFFERED A GOOD SERVICE TO THE ZIONIST ENTITY."

- "ATTAJDID" (ISLAMIC ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY, CIRC. 35,000)
OF JUNE 25:

"MUSLIM SCHOLARS HAVE REJECTED ABU GHAITH'S CALL TO KILL
JEWS EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD. THERE IS NO WAR BETWEEN
MUSLIMS AND EVERY JEW IN THE WORLD. THE WAR IS BETWEEN US AS
MUSLIMS AND JEWS LIVING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHO HAVE

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COME FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD AND SETTLED IN PALESTINE".

LABOR UNION CONFLICT

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- "DEMOCRACY", IS THE TITLE OF FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL SIGNED BY MOHAMED BENABID IN "L'ECONOMISTE" OF JUNE 25:

"THE BATTLE WE ARE WATCHING INSIDE THE NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS IS ELOQUENT AT MANY LEVELS AND POSES MANY QUESTIONS ... ESPECIALLY THE PROBLEM OF REPRESENTATIVENESS, REFORMS AND TRANSPARENCY. SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT IN DEALING WITH THIS DOSSIER. REPRESENTATIVENESS INSIDE A UNION SHOULD BE VERIFIED IN DEMOCRATIC WAY, REFORMING TRADE UNIONS."

EDITORIALIZED HEADLINES ON ME

- THE PRINT MEDIA FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE ONGOING ISRAELI INCURSIONS INTO CITIES IN THE WEST BANK WITH THE LEADING "AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAK" FEATURING A LARGE PHOTO WITH ORDINARY PALESTINIAN MEN AND WOMEN WALKING TOWARD AN ISRAELI TANK WITH SOLDIERS POINTING GUNS AND THE HEADLINE "THE ASSASSINATION OF SIX PALESTINIANS IN AN ISRAELI RAID SOUTH OF GAZA: THE OCCUPATION FORCES STORM THE HEADQUARTERS OF PRESIDENT ARAFAT."

- "L'OPINION" (GOVERNMENT COALITION, FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY, CIRC. 53,000, ISTIQLAL PARTY): "PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: ARAFAT UNDER SIEGE. SHEIKH YASSIN UNDER HOUSE ARREST. PALESTINIANS KILLED IN RAFAH BY ISRAELIS. ISRAEL HAS THE INTENTION TO STAY FOR A LONG TIME IN GAZA."

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- "L'OPINION" (GOVERNMENT COALITION, FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY, CIRC. 53,000, ISTIQLAL PARTY): "BUSH HAS BEEN A CATASTROPHE SINCE THE BEGINNING: SENATOR JOHN KERRY HAS HARSHLY CRITICIZED BUSH'S POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST"

- "AL-ALAM" (GOVERNMENT COALITION, ARABIC-LANGUAGE DAILY, CIRC. 15,000, ISTIQLAL PARTY): "BEFORE THE EYES OF THE WORLD ISRAEL COMMITS WAR CRIMES AND PRACTICES STATE TERRORISM"

- "AL BAYANE" (GOVERNMENT COALITION, FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY, CIRC. 15,000, PPS PARTY): "ISRAELI SOLDIERS SURROUND ARAFAT HEADQUARTERS AND THINK ABOUT BANNING MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES OF THE SUICIDE RESISTANCE."

GENERAL NEWS

WESTERN SAHARA

- "AL ALAM" (GOVERNMENT COALITION, ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY,

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ISTIQLAL PARTY, CIRC. 50,000) OF JUNE 25:

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	PER-00	PM-00	PRS-00	SP-00	IRM-00	TEST-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/004W		

-----C24F06 251821Z /38

P 251807Z JUN 02
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WHITEHOUSE WASHDC//NSC// PRIORITY
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"THE VISIT OF IBARICHI TO TINDUF CAMPS: BASQUE INVESTORS

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FEAR FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS IN MOROCCO. PRESIDENT OF LOCAL BASQUE GOVERNMENT JUAN JOSE IBARICHI IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A VISIT TO THE TINDUF CAMPS IN ALGERIA JUNE 30 TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS AND MEETINGS WITH SEPARATIST POLISARIO MEMBERS. THE BASQUE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION HAS CALLED FOR THE CANCELLATION OF THAT VISIT TO SAFEGUARD BASQUE INVESTORS' INTERESTS IN MOROCCO."

ARREST OF AL QAEDA MEMBERS

- "ASSAHARA" (SEMI- OFFICIAL ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY, CIRC. 35,000) AND "BAYANE AL YOUM" (GOVERNMENT COALITION, ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY, PPS PARTY, CIRC. 15,000) OF JUNE 25:

"SAUDI PRINCE SULTAN BEN ABDULAZIZ, MINISTER OF DEFENSE EXPRESSED HIS FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE MOROCCAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM HANDLING THE INVESTIGATION WITH SAUDI MEMBERS OF AL QAEDA, AND SEES NO REASON TO SEND SAUDI OFFICIALS TO JOIN THE INVESTIGATION WITH ARRESTED MEMBERS."

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- "ASHARQ AL AWSAT" (LONDON-BASED ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILY, LOCAL CIRC. 24,000) OF JUNE 25 (AFP):

"SUSPICIONS OVER THE ARREST OF 'THE BEAR' IN MOROCCO: THERE ARE CONTRADICTORY PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE ARREST OF ABU ZUBAIR AL HAYLI WHOM U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED IS A SENIOR MEMBER OF AL QAEDA NETWORK. MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES SAID THAT AMONG ARRESTED SAUDIS WAS ZUHAIR HILAL MOHAMMED THABITI WHO WAS PRESENTED ALSO UNDER THE NAME OF ZUHAIR AL HAYLI. THE TWO NAMES LOOK SIMILAR. "L'OPINION" SAID U.S. INTELLIGENCE CONFUSED THE TWO NAMES, AND THAT 'THE BEAR' IS NOT ON MOROCCAN SOIL WHILE "AUJOURD'HUI LE MAROC" CONFIRMED THAT 'THE BEAR' WAS RECENTLY ARRESTED IN MOROCCO."

FIRE IN SHANTY-TOWN IN FEZ

- GENERAL COVERAGE (MAP): "FIRE HAS DESTROYED 1300 BARRACKS IN A SHANTY- TOWN IN FEZ LAST SUNDAY, NO VICTIMS BUT MUCH MATERIAL LOSS."

TUTWILER

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